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NEA/IR FOR SPRING

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/10/2025
TAGS: [CASC](#) [PREL](#) [AU](#)
SUBJECT: AUSTRIA ON AMCIT CASES

REF: 09 STATE 129480

Classified By: Econ/Pol Counselor Dean Yap. Reason: 1.4(b) and (d).

(C) Austrian MFA Middle East Director Friedrich Stift reported Jan. 11 that the new Austrian Ambassador to Tehran, Thomas Buchsbaum, has not yet been able to make the necessary contacts in the Iranian government to pursue the imprisoned/missing Amcit cases. However, Stift reported that previous Ambassador to Iran Michael Postl will be meeting with Iranian officials in Geneva at the end of January and will raise the issue then. Stift also reported hearing rumors that the three hikers may still be in detention because the Iranians hope to use them as leverage in the case of an Iranian nuclear scientist who apparently defected in Saudi Arabia and whom the Iranians now believe is in the United States.
EACHO